

1. How can I help with the frog surveys?

FrogWeb welcomes volunteers who wish to assist them in the collection of amphibian data. Two programs in which you can participate are Frog Watch and FrogNotes. To get the details, go to [Adopt a Frog Pond](http://www.frogweb.gov/adopt.html) at <http://www.frogweb.gov/adopt.html>.

2. Are you interested in data about deformed toads, newts, and salamanders, too?

Yes. NARCAM collects data on other deformed amphibians as well. Go to <http://www.frogweb.gov/adopt.html>, and click on the Amphibian Malformation Monitoring Program to get the data collection form.

3. Can I use a photo from your page in my presentation or report?

FrogWeb is publicly funded, and **some** images on this site are copyright-free. Images not credited to a specific photographer belong to the U.S. government, and are in the public domain. Images credited to a specific photographer, state government, or organization, are NOT the property of the government, and are subject to copyright law. **You may not use a copyrighted image** without the written consent of the owner. If you have questions concerning a particular image, please [e-mail Captain Ribbitt!](#)

4. Do you have any posters or videos that I can buy?

Not at this time. Check back periodically for future developments!.

5. How can I build my own frog pond?

The National Wildlife Federation provides simple and fun instructions for building a backyard frog pond. You can get them from the NWF's Backyard Wildlife Habitat link on the "Adopt a Frog Pond" page at <http://www.frogweb.gov/adopt.html>.

6. I want to help save the frogs. Where can I send a donation?

Several agencies and organizations are currently investigating amphibian population declines and deformities. If you would like more information about how you can help fund this research, the following FrogWeb partners can offer suggestions: The [Declining Amphibians Population Task Force](http://www2.open.ac.uk/ecology/J_Baker/DAPTF.Appeal.html) (http://www2.open.ac.uk/ecology/J_Baker/DAPTF.Appeal.html), [National Wildlife Federation](http://www.nwf.org) (<http://www.nwf.org>), and [A Thousand Friends of Frogs](http://www.hamline.edu/frogs) (<http://www.hamline.edu/frogs>).

7. Is FrogWeb interested in my photos of amphibians that I'm willing to donate?

While we have many photographers contributing photos to FrogWeb, we are always interested in obtaining quality images, particularly close-ups of species not currently represented by a photo on our site. If you have an amphibian image that you would like us to consider for inclusion in FrogWeb, please send a scanning-quality photograph, negative, slide, or copy on disk to:

FrogWeb
BRD-OBIO
USGS
Mail Stop 302
12201 Sunrise Valley Dr.
Reston, VA 20192

We will make every effort to return your photo, if requested. Please include contact information with the image. Any donated images will be considered in the public domain, so please do not submit copy-righted images.

8. My child wants to keep a frog as a pet. Is this a good idea, especially if the population is declining?

There is not one answer to this question. However, the following things should be considered. Frogs should not be taken from public lands as these animals are there for the public's enjoyment. While most, if not all states permit people to keep one or two wild caught frogs, you should be aware that some states do restrict the number that can be caught or kept. Although it is unlikely that any frog within your child's reach will be an endangered species, please use a field guide to check the identification of the animal and make sure that it is one of the common species. If you keep a frog with other species you should not return it to the wild as it can pick up diseases and spread them to its wild brothers and sisters. Always return a frog to the same area in which it was captured.

9. My child has a non-native pet frog that he purchased in a pet store, but doesn't want to keep anymore. Can I turn it loose in the backyard?

No; you should **not** release a non-native species into your area. There are several reasons not to do this. First, your amphibian may not be able to survive if released into an alien habitat. It may be unable to locate the types of food it depends upon to live. Your local climate may be inhospitable, and it may encounter difficulty finding shelter. It may not be able to escape unfamiliar predators. You may also harm native amphibian species in your area if a released non-native introduces diseases to which the native species lack immunity. Finally, non-native species can invade and permanently alter an ecosystem, outcompeting, crowding out, and even killing native species. Invasive species are a major threat to many ecosystems around the globe, and can cause serious environmental and economic damage. (To read more about invasive species and the threat they can pose, go to <http://www.nbii.gov/invasive/index.html>. If you can no longer keep a non-native amphibian as a pet, consider these options:

- ask a local pet store if they can take it
- advertise it in a newspaper or trading gazette
- find out if a local school would be interested in adopting it as a class pet
- contact your local SPCA, Humane Society, or other animal-care organization

10. We have a small pond in our backyard. How can we attract frogs and participate in the frogwatching programs?

The National Wildlife Federation can provide you with some tips for attracting frogs and other amphibians to your yard. [Click here](#) to get more information. You can help in the monitoring of amphibian populations by telling us how many and what kinds of species you see on a [report form](#). If you note any deformities, please report them to NARCAM by [filling out an electronic form](#) describing the malformations, or by calling 1-800-238-9801.

11. I see you have two programs for frog watchers. What are the differences between Frog Watch and FrogNotes?

Both [Frog Watch](#) and [FrogNotes](#) involve volunteers going out into their local areas and collecting amphibian data. The differences between the two programs lie in the methods of observation and the time commitment asked of volunteers. Frog Watch involves monitoring of a local pond twice a week for several months. Participants visit the ponds during the mating season and identify species present according to their calls. Instructions for signing up, as well as information about identifying frog calls, are provided on the Frog Watch page. FrogNotes is a more informal program that does not require a time commitment by participants. Volunteers simply report any amphibian species observed locally; if

any deformities are noted, a separate electronic form is available to submit to NARCAM . Participants can submit the data for a particular wetlands area once per year.

12. Are there amateur groups in my area who are going out and monitoring local frog ponds and wetlands?

Stay tuned to FrogWeb for forthcoming information about amphibian-watching groups forming in your area. If you are forming a group in your area, please notify us so that we can share your activities with your neighbors.

13. Are you studying amphibian declines in my area?

NAAMP researchers are interested in data from all regions of North America. Reports from any region will be of assistance to these researchers in compiling profiles of deformed populations . Suspected population changes should be reported on the [FrogNotes](http://www.frogweb.gov/frognotes.html) page (<http://www.frogweb.gov/frognotes.html>).

14. Can I link to FrogWeb on my webpage?

Yes, you are welcome to link to FrogWeb from your homepage. As a courtesy, we would appreciate your e-mailing us with the URL of your page.

15. Can I print out Frog Watch data sheets for use with my students?

Yes. Many people find it easier to print hard copies of the data sheets to take into the field, and then enter the data electronically later. If your access to a computer is limited, NARCAM can accept malformations data by telephone; the phone number is 1-800-238-9801. Please note that [FrogNotes](#) participants reporting population changes should *not* use this telephone number, as it should be used only for reporting amphibian *deformities*.

16. I used information from FrogWeb in a report. What is the correct bibliographic format for citing you as a source?

Please cite us as:

FrogWeb [<http://www.frogweb.gov>]

17. Do you have a mailing list that I can get on?

Not at this time.

18. I've seen a few frogs in my area, but none with deformities. Are deformed frogs the only ones that I should report, or are you interested in normal ones as well?

NARCAM is interested specifically in sightings of deformed amphibians; use the NARCAM data forms to submit malformation data. However, the FrogNotes program collects data on your local amphibian populations, whether they are normal or deformed.

19. I don't know how to identify different species of frogs and toads. Do you have a guide that

can tell me what kinds are in my backyard?

Several good online resources are available for identifying various amphibian species. Go to the [Education](http://www.frogweb.gov/education.html) page (<http://www.frogweb.gov/education.html>) to find them under “General References & Species Identification Guides.”

20. I'm a teacher looking for projects and activities involving amphibians. Can you help?

Check under the Education link at the top right of this page for some fun activities for your classroom. Other good places for resources are:

[National Biological Information Infrastructure's Education page](http://www.nbii.gov/education/index.html) (<http://www.nbii.gov/education/index.html>)

[USGS Biological Resources Division's Education page](http://biology.usgs.gov/features/education.html) (<http://biology.usgs.gov/features/education.html>)

[A Thousand Friends of Frogs](http://cgee.hamline.edu/frogs)

(<http://cgee.hamline.edu/frogs>)

21. I would like to help restore the frog population in my area; however, there are no frogs to be found. Is there anywhere I could obtain the eggs, help them mature, and then disperse them?

Before undertaking any restoration project, you need to try to determine why there are currently no frogs to be found. Is there no habitat to support them (often the most likely cause)? Do fish, who may consume all the larvae and tadpoles, occupy all of the local ponds? Are your wetlands areas too polluted? Amphibians are relatively good colonizers, so the fact that you have no frogs at all is a good indication of severe problems. You can bring in new eggs and tadpoles or frogs and release them, but if the ecological problems persist, your efforts will be wasted and could be detrimental to the areas that were your source of stocking material.

Though your intentions are laudable, you should be aware before you begin a restoration project that *most* translocations of animals to new places fail, and some can even do more harm than good. If you do decide to attempt to reintroduce native amphibian species, you should do so only after seeing that any suspected environmental problems in the immediate habitat have been relieved, and that the property will not be re-colonized naturally. It is imperative that any species brought in to recolonize be native to that specific area. Additionally, you should find these “recolonizers” locally, and NOT from commercial houses or from outside the region. Commercial and outside stocks of amphibians could introduce diseases and genetic problems that would make matters worse than better. Local populations will best be adapted to local conditions. The best place to obtain local animals (after obtaining permission from the landowner) is from places where the habitat is undergoing destruction or alternation due to development or other disasters.